

Example Successes / Works in Progress:

R3: The Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) - *The Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program: Transforming the Legacy* - CVI invited EPA to work with regional organizations to establish a program, build the partnerships, and perform the collaborative science, dialogue, and actions necessary to revitalize, protect, and steward watersheds, public health and socio-economic conditions in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. (Tom DeMoss: 410-305-2702)

R4: Protecting Critical Ecosystems with the Southeastern Ecological Framework (SEF) GeoBook: The SEF is a hub and corridor network of ecologically significant lands across the SE. The SEF GeoBook supports local decision-making for greenspace protection with a web based GIS data viewer application that highlights the SEF in relation to 8 natural resource issues, related data, potential funding sources, and links to high resolution data. (Rick Durbrow: 404-562-8286)

R5: Enhancing citizen access to EPA data sources: Conducted a Lake Michigan Basin analysis. Through the use of a geo-spatial model, the highest quality areas needing restoration / protection were discussed at the Lake Michigan Area Management Plan Workshop and published in the Plan in 2003. (John Perrecone: 312-353-1149)

R7: Geo-Spatial Tools: The Synoptic Wetlands Ranking Tool enables the Region to calculate the percent of pristine wetlands in comparison to the total amount of wetlands that have been saved from conversion. A terrestrial and aquatic version of the ranking tool is under development. (Brenda Groskinsky: 913-551-7188)

R8: Application of the Regional Ecological Assessment Framework: The framework is being employed in a number of projects, including the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program's Western Pilot, and recently, the San Juan Mountains assessment. (Karl Hermann: 303-312-6628)

REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION NETWORK

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THE REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION NETWORK

People dedicated to
science, healthy
communities and
sustainable ecosystems



MISSION: The mission of the Regional Ecosystem Protection (REP) Network is to foster initiatives and strategies within the core functions of the U.S. EPA that facilitate the protection and restoration of ecosystems, which are critical to biodiversity, human health, and/or landscape functions.

VISION: “Through 2008, identify and synthesize the identify the best available scientific information, models, methods, and analyses to support Agency guidance and policy decisions related to the health of people, communities and ecosystems.”

GOALS

1. Ensure Agency-wide access to environmental management decision-support tools that integrate best available scientific knowledge of ecosystems values, functions and conditions.
2. Ensure Agency-wide application of ecosystem protection principles, data, and tools in EPA decision-making.
3. Establish Agency-wide appreciation for how ecosystem protection principles, data, and tools can help EPA and its partners achieve their missions to safeguard human health and the environment.
4. Ensure Agency-wide integration of ecosystems values, functions, and conditions into EPA's programs.

WHO ARE WE? An energized coalition of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and managers dedicated to ecosystem protection through the sharing of ideas about ecosystem assessments and innovative management, and geo-spatial tool development / applications. Backed by sound science and practical technology, the REP Network and the REP Strategy focus on real program decisions. We champion the integration of ecological and biological indicators into EPA program and partner decision-making processes that support the mission of the Agency in the protection of human health and the environment for the long term success of ecosystem protection efforts.

WHAT DO WE NEED? EPA's senior management to provide leadership, encouragement and assignment of staff to officially participate in the Network. Empowerment from the senior staff to perform ecosystem assessments more readily across the Regions to better understand the condition of the ecological resources over time, which would lead to more effective delivery of EPA's programs.



KEY ACTIVITIES:

- 6/02 Regions / ORD Critical Ecosystems Workshop
- Proceedings Report.
 - REP Network (Initially called ESE) concepts presented / ratified.
- 12/02 Influenced EPA Goal 4 development to include ecosystems.
- 5/03 Communication / Outreach
- REP Network Strategy.
 - REP Network Fact Sheet.
 - Presentations at EPA Science Forum 2003.
 - REP Network members meeting with Headquarters managers and staff to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

In Progress:

- OPEI / University of Florida inventory of Regional geo-spatial tools (R2, R4, R5, R6, R8).
- Evaluating potential role for Regions to cooperate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the States implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.
- Looking for opportunities to participate in the Agency's State of the Environment Report.

REP Network Website:

Additional information will be posted at:

epa.gov/region8/water/repn